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The Spectator

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Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

WELCOME

TO HAMILTON

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Dear Hamilton Students,

If you are returning to campus: We missed you and welcome back. If you just completed your first week at Hamilton: Welcome to the Hamily! We are all about to begin a new journey together with new faces, experiences and memories. Now that we're all back, it's time to have some fun and enjoy all the things you've missed at Hamilton.

The Spectator brings together campus stories and perspectives to create a detailed weekly publication. We present stories from six sections: news, opinion, sports, arts & entertainment, features, and investigative analysis to cover a wide range of topics and events on and off campus. This semester, we will be working to provide additional forms of media to *The Spectator* name. On Friday, we will be at the club fair near the Dunham side, so be sure to stop by to meet us, pick up an application and join the team.

Your college weekly since 1847,
The Spectator

The Spectator
will be at the club fair this Friday, Sept. 2nd at the Dunham green from 12p.m-2p.m.!

follow us on instagram!

Visit us online!
spec.hamilton.edu

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ALL First-year writers

Celebrating 175 years,
we were first published as The Radiator *in 1847.*

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Define Hamilton

Language at Hamilton is littered with all sorts of terms that an outsider probably would not understand. Here's a definitive guide to Hamilton slang, acronyms and abbreviations that should make you feel sufficiently well-versed when talking to your peers or professors.

"CAB"
The Campus Activity Board is a student organization that coordinates the Acoustic Coffeehouse series, comedy acts, concerts and more. CAB is basically responsible for the awesome nightlife that occurs on weekends.

"Diner B"
Not the alternative to Diner A that you might presume, Diner B is a Hamilton late night tradition. On weekend nights (Thurs. to Sat.), the diner stays open to the wee hours in the morning (3 a.m.) to provide greasy breakfast food for late-night revelers. Bacon mess and tots, you can't go wrong.

"Clocker/Clockey/club sports"
Slang for names for club sports teams. Many combine the C from club sports with the rest of the sport name.

"Gray side"
Everyone who is left out of the dark side/ light side battle. This includes Bundy, Wertimer ("Wert"), Wallace Johnson House ("Wally J"), Skenandoa ("Sken"), 100 College Hill Road, and a couple others.

"G Road or Groad"
Griffin Road, location of student townhouse apartment complexes toward the northwest end of campus. Some professors also live on this road. Bike-riding down G Road on a fall afternoon is serene.

"HAVOC"
Hamilton Association for Volunteering, Outreach and Charity: facilitates a number of different community service sites, as well as the annual Make a Difference Day and puppies for finals.

"Jans"
Short for "January admits," they are the first-year students admitted for the spring semester. Most of them spend the semester abroad in London. Jans are cool.

"Dark side" / "light side"
Past the boundaries of the Admissions Office, no one other than the professors refers to the "South" and "North" side of campus as such. Students will literally have no idea what you're talking about if you do. The Kirkland campus is the "dark side" and the Hamilton campus is the "light side".

"Root"
Thanks to the generous generations of the Root family, "Root" might refer to any one of the four buildings on campus or a glen. But your best bet is the dark side dormitory named Root Hall. There is also the other Root Hall, the Molly Root House, and the Elihu Root House.

"Co-op"
Also known as Woolcott House. Located at the northeast corner of campus, the Co-op is a unique living situation in that students prepare and cook their own meals.

"The Glen"
While Hamilton slang can sometimes be pretty specific, when someone says, "Meet me in the glen later," it's the equivalent of them asking to meet you on the dark side (see above). When generally referred to in this manner, the "glen" is usually the connected glens of Kirkland and Root. Root Glen, the smaller of the two, is part of the Hamilton arboretum and is a bit more like a garden or an easy stroll with benches. The Kirkland Glen, on the other hand, has miles of trails that allow for hiking and running.

"Mons"
Commons dining hall, lightside.

"*The Spec*"
Yours truly, *The Spectator* Newspaper.

"The Bank"
Milbank residence hall, located right next to Kirner Johnson Academic Building, features suites of six to eight students. Usually, four of the rooms are singles and one is a double. appearance there soon. It's a scene.

"KJ"
Kirner Johnson Academic Building, a darkside academic building where many humanities, government and economic courses take place.

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Dining Experience: XA Edition

by Sam Spork '26, Harriet Xu '26 and Ashley Lopez '26
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mediocre or tantalizing, culinary experiences represent a quintessential element of the American college experience as a whole. Throughout our first week at Hamilton, the Exploration Adventure Orientation trips were exposed to a wide variety of interesting opinions. We (the authors—and eight other participants) were all lucky enough to participate in the Journalism trip, which included traveling into Clinton and Utica, where we tried some local grub alongside our daily rations of pita and hummus. We would love to share some of those experiences and opinions with other first-years, and hopefully inspire them to go on their own food adventures during their time at Hamilton! These are our stories.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLINTSTONES VITAMINS

Salty sweet GORP, crunchy rice, carbon encrusted s'mores and Flintstone gummies galore; orientation food was unique to say the least; emphasis on the Flintstone gummies. On the final night of our trip, multiple members of our trip decided that the gummies were an absolute necessity in their diet and in high amounts. Despite the warnings about excess Vitamin A, our companions fought for the Ziploc bag. We started with what seemed like an entire bottle of the vitamins, and ended with five individual gummies. Seeing as the serving size is two gummies, the final census being odd was somewhat disconcerting. However, with the only other gummy option being Swedish Fish, one could make the argument that the Flintstone vitamins were our only respite.

After interviewing other groups from XA, we found that the general consensus was that the Orientation meal plan was missing some spice, and diversity of flavor. It didn't take long for staples like Curtain Call's peanut butter banana bagels, or the trip's deli meat and hummus sandwiches to lose their charm after the third or fourth time consumed. Fortunately our basic supply opened pathways for some rather unconventional creations. Food Combinations like the rock hard protein pita bread, courtesy of Games and the Human equation, is a perfect example of the innovative, some might say interdisciplinary, approach this group will take throughout their time on campus.

The infamous meat stick was an outlet for initial horror. Perhaps a less offensive title like "Salami Sword" would make it more appetizing. While most ate it cold, sliced over burrito bowls, or bitten directly from the stalk, it shined best when Jam Camp fried it over their stove as a filling for tacos. It is, admittedly, a strange way to provide us with a meat ration, and we didn't end up finishing it. Many were put off by the mysterious look of it, even though we read through the ingredients list multiple times. It was tough and exceptionally salty, which added to the "camping" vibe that our leaders were attempting to achieve by cooking with the propane stove. We used the plastic wrapper as our cutting board and since some students on the trip were vegetarian, we had to make sure the one knife we used was not needed for other ingredients. To put it positively, we all shared a laugh and the meat stick was a thoroughly collaborative and humbling experience.

Luckily, the Journalism and Jam Camp participants were taken to the Thursday Farmers' market on the Clinton Green. Following the pandemic, the market seemed to be regaining popularity for Clinton residents, providing a sustainable "one-stop-shop for local food," says Hamilton student Claire Williams '25 in a recent article on the venue. While bread and cured meat products were available, the sweet tooth was strong amongst the group as favorites included the moist and buttery cupcakes from the Winter Thorn Farm, Cotton Candy from Shaw's Maple Products and bits and bobs from So Sweet Candy Shoppe. Thanks to the gifts from the print shop PJ Green, the Journalism trip developed a taste for local delicacies like the simple yet satisfying Utica Tomato Pie, or the

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delightfully chewy Half Moon Cookies. Food-wise, these treats were the highlight of the trip. We highly recommend other first years to try them. Be quick; the farmers' market closes in mid-October for the year!

While the flavor profile of the provided camp foods may be described in many different, and some less than favorable ways, the experiences of cooking meals together in crowded kitchens, or watching students battle with wasps were what made it memorable.

This, in part, is what makes Hamilton's orientation trips so unique. Food remains as an essential centerpiece for bringing people together. It is the unifying factor of most families' traditions, and the first thing students begin to crave as homesickness creeps in.

While the slightly subpar menu from orientation may not have accomplished its task of uplifting our pallets, our spirits were definitely lifted throughout the process.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIMPLY SO GOOD

The incoming experience through Hamilton's Opportunity Program

by Ashley Lopez '26
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a part of my acceptance to Hamilton College, I was inquired to come to Hamilton early and participate in a five week intensive summer program, also known as the Opportunity Program (OP) summer program. Hamilton's opportunity programs are split into two programs: HEOP, the Higher Education Opportunity Program open to New York residents, and the scholars program, for students that reside outside of New York. Though the two distinctions are solely based on location, I, along with 36 other students, came together and spent the majority of our summers engaging in college level courses, a weekend trip to the Adirondacks, countless hours of tutoring, advising meetings and even performing five minute speeches about our inspiration to the class.

According to Hamilton's website, the program is meant for students to build "a strong academic foundation that facilitates a successful transition to college life." During the summer program, I met amazing people that I hope to be friends with for a lifetime. I now have a space where I'm comfortable and my background, along with my identity, are seen and recognized. Knowing people who come from similar backgrounds in a Predominantly White Institution was so important to me when thinking about what college I would attend, and the OP summer program gave me that opportunity. Throughout the duration of the summer program, I was pushed out of my comfort zone even when I did not feel capable of doing tasks such as reciting one of Shakespeare's sonnets or performing my five minute speech. However, not only were my professors confident in me, but my classmates reassured me that I had a space where I would feel loved and supported, no matter how little or big I chose to share. Being surrounded by so much support allowed me to be confident in myself, and I feel like this group of people were now my home.

Although the rigorous courses and tightly packed schedule could seem, at times, overwhelming, it was interesting to get a feel for what classes would typically look like during the school year. Classes like philosophy, oral communications and practicing public speaking is something I had personally never experienced during high school, so I loved that I had the opportunity to dip my feet in different areas of study. The flexibility of physical education class was always great, as I could use the gym or enjoy an hour of throwing a frisbee with friends. As an incoming first-year student, I was able to get familiar with campus, especially the locations of academic buildings and places to study. I loved all the memories and friends I made through the Opportunity Program at Hamilton!

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Jam camp: more than music

by Anna Lind '26
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A bird's furious sing-song defense of her nest, a cicada's raspy mating call, a whale's low lonely whine—these are not sounds meant to dance to; they are messages for survival. The music that animals create can be beautiful, sometimes even haunting, but it is always made purely out of necessity, either to protect or to procreate. Music in the way that we think—as something meant for us to sit back, relax to and enjoy—is one of the only things that sets us apart from the rest of the animal kingdom. It is distinctly and decidedly human.

One of Hamilton's orientation groups: Jam Camp, set out this week to explore making our kind of music–the enjoyable kind. From the third floor of Sadove, we can hear them in the basement: a blasting trumpet ricocheting around the stairwell, two boys clinking out a duet at the grand piano, the tuning (or practicing) of a flute, little bits and pieces of half-finished lyrics and melodies.

From the melodica to the guitar to the trumpet to the ukulele, Jam Camp is the coalescence of music, experimentation and supportive, uplifting enthusiasm that radiates out of every performance. Jam Camp's main musical focus is jazz. Monk Rowe, the director of the Hamilton College Fillius Jazz Archive, taught his students how to write 12-bar blues, a chord progression based on the I, IV, and V sequence (think "Hound Dog" by Elvis Presley, or "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley & His Comets). Jamie Merrill '26, a member of Jam Camp who plays both piano and guitar, summarized the genre as essentially "a template to complain." The aim, he says, is to "project the way we feel into this lost art form…and to create a rhythm that really gets you going." When asked to describe the type of music Jam Camp makes, he responded: "In one word, raw. In two words, super rad. In three words, I'm really excited!"

But music that is created solely for enjoyment can also accomplish something else: it has the power to bring complete strangers together. During Jam Camp's performance outside of the Kirkland Town Library, parents and children passing by started to wander over and sit on the grass in front of the makeshift stage, naturally drawn to the vibrant music.

Later, around a campfire, they performed their own original song, "Chocolate Milk Blues," and the two other groups gathered there—Journalism and Curtain Call sang along together, laughing and swaying. That moment encapsulated the true purpose of Jam Camp: to enjoy not just the music, but every part of the process. The brainstorming, the trial and error, the creation, the anticipation, the performance, and the newly formed common connection between people (like me) who are lucky enough to experience it.

Orientation reflections from a first-year

by Rishin Mitra '26
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Aug. 10, 2022, my closest friends and family drove me to the Netaji Subhash Chandra Internati0nal Airport, Kolkata to see me off as I left for college. Four years in an unknown place without friends and family? To be brutally honest, I wasn't too optimistic about my college experience. As Neal Walsch once said, "Nothing stays the same, nothing remains static. Which way a thing changes depends on you." As I sought to maximize my college experience, I had little clue as to what to expect from Hamilton. On my first day on campus, I got to meet all the incoming international students since all of us had our move-ins earlier. It was overwhelming to meet people from every nook and corner of the world. The Days-Massolo Center (DMC) became a place where all of us hung out as we got to know each other.

The international community became quite well-knit and I did not feel out of place. As soon as the other first-year students arrived on Aug. 16, we were all placed into our respective orientation groups. I was a part of the ten-member journalism trip, with an objective to delve into the intricacies of journalism and media publication.

On the first day, we stayed mostly on campus, meeting the college staff and Brad Waters, the Publisher of the Rome Sentinel, a local newspaper, as well as a photographer for the company, Alex Cooper. Mr. Waters shared his valuable thoughts on running a local newspaper agency while being overshadowed by other large media corporations.

He was determined to help college students reach a wider audience and provide them with more coverage than at present. His passion for the media business and determination to give the locals a voice was truly inspiring and motivating. After our presentation, we cooked dinner in front of the Sadove Student Center, mostly running from a huge swarm of bees while trying to cover the food. Post-dinner, we played "mafia"—a pretty depressing game if you aren't the "mafia." After that, everyone was too exhausted and dozed off to sleep on the third floor of the student center, our home for the trip. We had our sleeping bags and pillows to get us through the entirety of our trip.

Breakfast was typically granola bars, fruit, coffee and some bagels. The second day, we visited the local television station, WKTV, and got an insight into the amount of perfection and minimization of errors required to excel in a field such as media.

The coordination and team work needed to run a television station was mind boggling. There's no room for error. After our visit to the station, we went down to the Farmer's market in Clinton and ate in a park nearby. Lunch was usually

pita bread, humus, cookies and chips. Post lunch, all of us came back to campus and participated in an InDesign tutorial by one of the seniors, Juliet Davidson. It was interesting getting to know how various magazines, articles, and the college's yearbook were designed.

After completing our tutorial, we pretty much had the rest of the day to ourselves. We had an early dinner and then spent time playing more "mafia" with members from Jam Camp, another trip, who were also staying on campus in the basement of the Sadove Student Center. I was excited and overwhelmed to meet so many new people. The day was put to an end following watching a couple of episodes of Wanda Vision.

On the third day, we were scheduled to visit P.J. Green in Utica, the college's go-to-place for print jobs. *The Spectator,* The Continental, Signature Style and so many publications on campus were produced by P.J. Green, if not at the on campus print shop.

It was intriguing to get a deep dive into the company's printing techniques and the efficiency with which the workers carried out their respective tasks. After our visit to P.J. Green, we went to the Kirkland Town Library to support the Jam Campers as they put up a musical performance for us and other locals.

My first few days on campus have been simply overwhelming to say the least. It has been a bit of a cultural shock as well. I eagerly anticipate how the next couple of days and months are going to work out for me, but I guess I'll try to be a bit more optimistic on this one.

Dining off the Hill

Even though Clinton can feel like the middle of nowhere, there are plenty of local restaurants that are sure to spice up a meal. So hop on the Jitney, rent a Zipcar, beg an upperclassman for a ride, or DoorDash from some of these great spots.

Rio Grande Tex Mex Grill
Your standard Mexican-American cuisine, located at 3913 Oneida Street, New hartford. Try the one pound burrito covered in cheese sauce, it bomb. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Clinton Cider Mill
A favorite fall gathering spot, the Cider Mill sells donuts, cider, syrup, pies, chili, clushies, apples and so much more. Located at 28 Elm Street off College St in Clinton. Open from Labor Day through Thanksgiving. Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Nola's
One of the few upscale dining venues in Clinton, Nola's is a great spot to take out-of-town guests, go on a romantic date or just treat yourself to a nice dinner. Located at 9 W Park Row, Clinton. Hours: Wednesday - Friday 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m; Saturday 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Closed Sundays through Tuesdays.

Bonomo's Dari Creme
This seasonal walk-up ice cream place is a Hamilton favorite. In addition to delicious ice cream, they have a great menu of American fast food. Located at 7589 State Route 5, Clinton. Hours: Monday - Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Sunday 11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Minar & Taj Mahal
Popular Indian food located at 609 French Rd, New Hartford and 60 Genesee St, New Hartford, respectively. Minar Hours: Sunday - Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Friday - Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Taj Mahal Hours: Sunday - Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 9:15 p.m.

Utica Coffee
A popular cafe that offers breakfast items such as coffee, tea, pastries, bagels and wraps. Utica Coffee Roasting Co. also sells bags of coffee beans and K-Cups at various grocery stores in Clinton, New Hartford and Utica. Located at 1 West Park Row, Clinton. Hours: Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mitsuba & Red Samurai
Two fantastic locations if you want sushi or hibachi. Located at 17 Ellinwood Dr, New Hartford and 8562 Seneca Turnpike, New Hartford respectively. Mitsuba Hours: Monday - Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Friday 11:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Red Samurai Hours: Monday - Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday 11:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The Hours You Can Never Remember

Cut these out; no matter how long you've been here you always forget them when you need them

Commons

Breakfast, Mon–Sun	7:30a.m. – 10 a.m.
Lunch, Mon–Fri	11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Snack, Mon–Fri	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Dinner, Mon–Sun	5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

McEwen (all hours are Mon–Fri)

Breakfast	7:30 a.m. – 11a.m.
Lunch	11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Dinner	4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.*

Diner

Mon–Fri	9 a.m. – Midnight
Sat-Sun	4:30p.m. –Midnight
Diner B (Th–Sat)	Midnight – 4 a.m.

The Little Pub (lunch)

Mon–Fri	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

DISCLAIMER: Hours may change throughout the year as places finalize schedules. Keep an eye out for updated hours of places of interest.

Library

Mon–Th	8 a.m. – midnight
Fri	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Satur	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sun	10 a.m. –midnight

Music Library

Mon – Th	9:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Friday	9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Satur	12:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sun	12:00 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Writing Center

Mon–Th	10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Fri	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sun	1 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Computer Lab Hours:

Mon–Th	8:30 a.m. – 12 a.m.
Fri	8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun	11 a.m. – midnight

QSR Center

Mon–Th	12 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Fri	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Sun	4 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Bookstore

Mon, Wed, Th	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tues	9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Fri	9 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Sat-Sun	Closed

Ice Rink (open skate Oct–Feb)

Sun–Fri	12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Career Center

Mon–Fri	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mail Center (all hours are Mon–Fri)

Stamps	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Packages	10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Health Center

Mon/Tu/Th/Fri	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wed	10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Counseling Center

Mon–Fri	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fitness Center

Mon–Fri	6 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Sat–Sun	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Alumni Gym

Mon–Fri	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Sat–Sun	10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Climbing Wall

Mon–Th	4 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Squash Courts

Mon–Fri	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Sat–Sun	10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Bristol Pool

Mon–Fri	7 a.m. – 9 a.m.; 12 p.m. – 6 pm; 8 p.m. – 10 pm
Sat–Sun	2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.